
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting
June 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Commissioners present: Melinda Fruendt, Rachel Holt, Kalie Kerth, Lindsay Laird, Jonathan Hall, Angela Marsee, Jackie Aaron, and John Schneider

Commissioners present virtually: Justin Brown, Mike Warren, Brenda Myers, and Ginarie Harrington

Guests present: Amanda Everett, Joe Dorman, Wanda Felty, Beth Martin, Sherry Fair, RoseAnn Duplan, Brenda Loggins, Sid Brown, Sheamekah Williams, Ashley Harvey, Constanzia Nizza, Brianna Bailey, Amy Emerson, Linda Manaugh, Emma Sherry, and LaTisha Edwards

Staff present: Annette Wisk Jacobi, Mark James, Amanda Jett, Cherra Taylor, Rob Agnew, Lisa Rhoades, Elizabeth Kaup, Joseph McGrath, Ellen Lohrenz, Jimmy Widdifield Jr., Joseph McGrath, Tina Pendergraft, Keith Pirtle, Adrienne Elder, Jennifer Hardin, and Danielle Dill

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were given.

Public Comments

Public comment was given by:

- Joe Dorman, executive director of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA), reported that the deadlines for filing interim studies have concluded. Two of the studies will focus on youth deaths. He announced that the Hero's Ball is scheduled for July 30, 2021. It will be simulcasted at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City and Greenwood Cultural Center in Tulsa.

Review and Approval of the Minutes from the May 21, 2021, Commission Meeting

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird asked the Commission to review the minutes and called for a motion.

Judge Warren moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Kerth seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Presentation and Approval of the Finance Report

– *Latisha Edwards, Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES)*

Ms. Edwards provided an overview of the financial report through May 31, 2021 and responded to all questions.

District Attorney Marsee moved to approve the financial report. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A handout was provided.

Election of Officers

– Director Melinda Fruendt

Chairperson Laird stated that another election is needed to realign with the commissioners' terms and the fiscal year. She then turned the meeting over to Director Fruendt. Director Fruendt stated that the Personnel Committee reached out to the following nominees to ensure their willingness to serve as an officer: Commissioner Laird, Commissioner Schneider, and Commissioner Kerth.

Director Fruendt nominated Commissioner Laird for Chair. Commissioner Fruendt entertained other nominations from the floor. No other nominations were given.

Director Holt moved to accept the nomination of Commissioner Laird for the position of Chair. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Director Fruendt nominated Commissioner Schneider for Vice Chair. Director Fruendt entertained other nominations from the floor. No other nominations were given.

District Attorney Marsee moved to accept the nomination of Commissioner Schneider for the position of Vice Chair. Director Holt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Director Fruendt nominated Commissioner Kerth for Secretary. Director Fruendt entertained other nominations from the floor. No other nominations were given.

District Attorney Marsee moved to accept the nomination of Commissioner Kerth for the position of Secretary. Director Holt seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

OCCY State Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Approval

– Mark James, OCCY Assistant Director

Assistant Director James presented the budget proposal for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022. He noted that prior to the Commission meeting, the OCCY Finance Committee reviewed the budget proposal in detail and approved of it. Some of the line items of the proposed budget include:

- Increased funding to provide three new positions in the following departments: 1) Oklahoma Child Death Review Board; 2) Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight; and 3) Office of Planning and Coordination.
- Creation of an agencywide database system.
- Salary changes for three current positions the Director, Executive Secretary I, and Administrative Assistant II.
- An increase in funds for the Tulsa PARB contracted coordinator.

There was discussion regarding the maintenance of the new database, concerns about carry forward amounts; and providing performance measures.

Director Fruendt moved to accept the SFY 2022 Budget Proposal as presented. Commissioner Aaron seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A handout was provided.

Due to scheduling conflict, Secretary Brown's presentation was moved up on the agenda.

Presentation: Overview of the funds provided to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services by the American Rescue Plan Act

– Secretary Justin Brown

Secretary Brown presented information about OKDHS' use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. He highlighted the following actions taken thus far:

- Partnering with the Oklahoma State Department of Education for food benefits.
- Expanding emergency allocations for SNAP benefits.
- Providing quality and sustainability payments for childcare.
- Providing specialty grants for childcare centers that focus on children with special needs.

Secretary Brown also responded to questions regarding different areas of childcare.

Presentation: State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

– Ms. Beth Martin, Director of Family Support and Prevention at the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Ms. Martin, presented on the progress of the State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Activities utilized to create the Plan include:

- Meeting biannually with stakeholders and partners to assure collaborations.
- Surveying professionals, stakeholders, and the community at large.
- Focusing on areas of family and community involvement, addressing gaps, and preparing for the next state plan.

Legislative Update

– Jennifer Hardin, OCCY Legislative Liaison

Ms. Hardin provided an update regarding interim studies. A few of the interim studies will focus on the following topics:

- Ways to incentivize, train, and retain behavioral health professionals, author Representative Josh West.
- The lack of physician oversight of medical marijuana patients under the age of 18; author Representative Cynthia Roe.
- The financial cliff associated with subsidies provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDSH); author Representative Mark Lawson.
- The long-term effects of child sex abuse and possible amendments to the Hidden Predator Act; author Representative Carol Bush.

Secretary Brown left the meeting at 10:35am.

Presentation: Child Death Review Board Recommendations

– Lisa Rhoades, OCCY Program Manager for the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board

Ms. Rhoades provided an overview of case data from 2019 and presented the 2021 annual recommendations. Some of the information provided include:

- A total of 136 deaths were reviewed and closed in 2019 with accidents being the primary manner of death.
- A total of 106 near deaths were reviewed and closed in 2019 with physical abuse as the primary injury. Recommendations below include supporting efforts in combating abusive head trauma, expand education on safe sleep, and law enforcement obtaining more detailed information in suicide investigations and reporting suicides to the OKDHS.

- **Abusive Head Trauma**

In 2019, the Board reviewed and closed four deaths and 30 near deaths that were attributed to abusive head trauma, occurring in both metropolitan areas, as well as rural. In 2010, the Preparing for a Lifetime, It's Everyone's Responsibility Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative created the Infant Injury Workgroup charged with recruiting hospitals to provide, free-of-charge, the Period of PURPLE© Crying, an abusive head trauma prevention education program. There are currently 39 of 46 birthing hospitals across the state that provide this education, through the Preparing for a Lifetime; It's Everyone's Responsibility Infant Injury Workgroup. The Board recommends this program continue to be funded and ensure all birthing hospitals provide this education in the expectation that caregivers may acquire skills that empower their capability to keep an infant safe.

- **Unsafe Sleep**

In 2019, infant deaths comprised over 30% of the deaths reviewed and closed (45 out of 136) and of these, 34 (75.6%) were noted to be due to an unsafe sleep environment; in an additional three cases, this could not be determined but was not ruled out. These deaths are also occurring in both urban and rural areas. To the Board's knowledge, there is limited instruction on infant safe sleep available for non-professional caregivers across the state, and recommend an environmental scan be conducted to determine what, if any, caregiver education is being provided and by whom. The Board further recommends safe sleep education be provided in areas identified by the scan as lacking safe sleep education.

- **Suicide**

Identification of prevention needs to reduce suicides has been difficult for the Child Death Review Board, due to suicide death investigation reports lacking information such as a family history of suicide, previous attempts, mental health history, and use of behavioral health medications. It is often difficult to ascertain if the child even left a suicide note. The Board recommends law enforcement agencies increase the thoroughness of their investigation to include such details, so that specific prevention needs can be identified. The thoroughness needs to include notification of the death to Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Director Fruendt moved to accept the recommendations from the Child Death Review Board. Judge Warren seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Director's Report

– *Annette Wisk Jacobi, OCCY Executive Director*

In addition to a written report, Director Jacobi shared information regarding the Youth Crisis Mobile Response Team of Heartline, community listening sessions with OICA, and the 2020 Kids Count Data Report developed by the Oklahoma Policy Institute.

A handout was provided.

Commissioner Announcements

– *All*

There were no announcements

Chairman Remarks

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

Chairperson Laird thanked Assistant Director James, the Finance Committee, and OMES for their contributions in preparing the budget report. She also reminded the commissioners of the requirements of in-person attendance to meet quorum. She congratulated Secretary Brown and OKDHS for receiving the “Most Innovative Agency” award at the Oklahoma Governor’s Summit. .

Adjournment

– *Chairperson Lindsay Laird*

District Attorney Marsee moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Fruendt seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Future Meeting Dates

September 17, 2021

November 19, 2021